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they had had an actual physical battle hier après-midi. The battle/fight happened when John's father walked/swaggered into the living room and told John to go up and clean his room. John said "no not now, I'm watching television." His father insisted and then the punching began. It lasted about 30 minutes. Connie allegedly telephoned the police. At the end of it all, they apparently shook hands and that was that. John described the fight as a "mutual release of tension." I would use other words. John's father is so fond of wielding power that he swaggered into the room & the first thing that came into his mind that he knew would irritate John was an order to "go clean your room." He knew John would object and he knew that he could make John succumb in the end, and so the battle was loose. The whole matter is none of my business, I know, but it makes me furious that John's father's sophomoric/transparent/adolescent behavior can carry the day in the face of no opposition. He thinks that he is so powerful and omnipotent and sophisticated and he is not any of those things. He seems to take particular pleasure in "dragging into the mud," with himself, his children. Richard is too young to be affected by his father's adolescent behavior; John is not. In many many ways, John is much much more than John's father can ever be, and that galls the father immeasurably. Among the pills that John's father finds difficult to swallow are the following: (1) John's friendship with me; (2) the fact that John knows, on a social basis, the Colville family -- John's father works for ^{the Colvilles} and does not know them on a social basis; John knew, on a social basis, Rebecca Colville, and John knows